

male Robin conducted himself in a most unseemly manner for the greater part of April at the auto station on Belle Isle, the city park of Detroit.

During some very severe weather he came into the station one morning when a door had been left open and was taken care of until the storm abated, when he was permitted to depart. Immediately upon reaching the great outdoors he returned to one of the windows and beat upon it. The matron in charge, under the impression that he wished to come back into the warm room, opened the door, but he flew away. He returned shortly and renewed his attacks upon the window, but when attempts were made to invite him in he left. This action on the part of the bird continued for hours, day after day. He would take a position on the railing surrounding that particular window and dash up on the glass repeatedly, as though engaged in mortal combat, until driven away by some one. No matter how often he would be frightened away he would return so quickly and keep at his one-sided fight so long, it was a wonder that he found time to procure necessary food. An idea of his stay on the railing may be gained from the fact that the droppings underneath accumulated until the platform resembled a hen house.

Finally, by my advice, the window was smeared all over the outside with a chalky substance and the Robin fought it no more, but transferred his attacks to another window near the other end of the station, where he again found his enemy. When this window was allowed to remain open the bird would go away, but he finally discovered that any window in the station furnished an adversary worthy of his prowess, so he continued to fight his shadow. And as three sides of the station are of glass he was kept pretty busy without being able to administer a knockout blow. After each attack the hated enemy would spring up as peppery as before. During the time when the bird was fighting the glass the conduct of the female was most peculiar. She would remain on the lower limb of a nearby tree, occasionally making remarks which might easily be translated as being, "Go after him, old man, he insulted me."

I have often seen or heard of a Robin engaging in fisticuffs with his shadow on a window pane, but I never knew a bird to keep so persistently at it for so long a time.—ETTA S. WILSON, *Detroit, Mich.*

**A Three-legged Robin** (*Planesticus m. migratorius*).—Early in June of the present year Mr. H. K. Coale of Chicago presented me with the skinned trunk of a young Robin that he had collected, which was found to possess three perfect legs. Two of these limbs were upon the left side, the lower one of the two being functional in all respects, while the other one, articulated above it, was probably of no service to the bird in any way whatever, although it was perfect, even to include all the toes. This specimen I carefully cleaned, and found the following conditions present in the pelvic part of it, all the remaining bones and articulations being perfect and normal:

The sacrum is curved uniformly throughout its length, the external

marginal line of the left side being convex outwards, and presenting some osseous enlargements at the terminations of the transverse processes, especially posteriorly. There is no abnormality of the right hand moiety of this pelvis, and the bones of the limb on that side are in every way normal.

On the left side the skeleton of the limb is normal in every particular, as are all the lower portions of the pelvis, including the acetabulum, which latter affords a perfect articulation for the femur. Surmounting this perfect part, however, there is to be observed the larger portion of the left moiety of a second pelvis which presents various distortions and abnormalities, and these involve the upper parts of the pelvis below it. In the supernumerary bone the ilium is replaced by a tumorous osseous mass, in a direct line above the cotyloid cavity of the inferior pelvis. Backward and downward from this is the second acetabulum on this side, and in this cavity a perfect femur articulates. This is the femur of the *third leg*, and it has been, near its trochanter, completely fractured across, probably during the operation of skinning the specimen. Posterior to these parts in this duplicated structure we find the somewhat aborted hinder portion of the ilium; the large ischiadic foramen, which is complete, and the ischium, likewise complete. The pubic style, however, somewhat broadened, has fused throughout its entire length with the ischium of the pelvis below it, the anterior half of the line of fusion being distinctly indicated by a little ridge. Further than this the specimen offers nothing; but as it stands it is of considerable interest teratologically, while, as in nearly all of these cases, the most important parts have been thrown away. For instance, a careful description of the origin and insertion of the muscles in such a case as this would be a valuable contribution to our at present meager information on such points. This is likewise true of an even more important matter — the distribution of the added nerves, arteries, and veins in these structures, and the general physiology of the limb. On such points as these our literature and information is almost a blank record.

When a taxidermist gets such material, he considers it a wonderful departure from the ordinary, and that the chief thing to be preserved is the skinned specimen showing the supernumerary limb; on the other hand, a one-sided ornithomist rarely sees anything beyond the necessity of saving the skeleton of the specimen. The science of teratology demands more than this, and we should in the future see well to it that these demands are met.— R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

**Notes from St. Marks, Fla. *Pelidna a. sakhalina*. RED-BACKED SANDPIPER.**— On May 19, 1919, about twenty of these birds were seen on the sand-flats back of our light-house. The summer plumage seemed complete, a broad, intensely black belly-patch standing out in contrast to the enclosing white as a piece of heavy plush. On May 26, a week later, another bunch of about the same number were seen on some flats, none of which showed more than streaks of black. No solid patch.

***Squatarola squatarola*. BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER** — May 19, 1919,